

Definition of a Bubble B1 Bantam Player

There are differing definitions of what a Bubble B1 Bantam player is depending on who you ask. Often this stems from the reference point being what team designation the athlete last played on was. Unfortunately there is no constant using that as the basis for comparison, as each municipality is free to play at the level they designate with no MN Hockey oversight as to uniform skill requirements. Drastically different numbers of athletes & teams from one club to the next alters what team players end up on. Parent perception & a coach's attachment to his club can create emotional obstacles as well. **Example:** An Edina coach is asked what level a player from Redwing is after seeing him and he says "solid B2 peewee". That player's parent and coach may be offended by that comment if the player is on the Redwing Bantam "A" team. It's ESP Hockey's job to help you find players who are at a target skill level, not players that are on certain teams. It's difficult to compare teams without a reference point. We have built a formula that guides you through it. Using the chart below you can find the right players when building a team from a single community or adding a few players from a nearby club to complete a team. A cross section of hockey associations are listed and analyzed to guide you in finding the right players. Some may have C teams in lieu of B2 but levels of skill should match up % wise based on total numbers. The terms we used to describe teams refers primarily to the size of the clubs not the level of commitment to their athletes.

Elite Tier Associations

Edina & Wayzata: **7-8 Bantam teams**

For the sake of argument these two associations have the most depth of B level players of virtually any other clubs year by year even with multiple teams. All the B1 players from those two associations are probably above the level we wish to assemble teams. Second line B2 players and below are the likely candidate's skill wise and potentially are a good match with the players and teams in our Bubble B1 league.

Top Tier

Eden Prairie, Woodbury, Eagan, Osseo-Maple Grove, Lakeville, White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Rochester, Minnetonka, Blaine: **Clubs that average 5-6 Bantam teams with 3-4 traveling.** These clubs typically have 1 or 2 B1 Bantam teams and either 1 or 2 B2 teams. The Bubble here consists of 2-5 of the third line players combined from the two B1 teams and 4-8 of the top dozen B2 players as they are normally interchangeable with the players that squeezed into the last few B1 spots.

High Mid Tier

Prior Lake-Savage, Chaska-Chanhassen, Andover, Centennial, Eastview, Cottage Grove, Hastings, St. Cloud: **Generally 4 or 5 smaller bantam teams with 2 or 3 traveling.** These clubs don't have the numbers of the Elite & Top Tier Clubs but they also don't field as many teams thereby having solid players at different points in their rosters. Generally you would look at the bottom 1 or 3 kids on a single B1 team and the top 6-10 kids in the B2 group.

Mid Tier

Burnsville, Jefferson, Tartan, Forest Lake, Sibley, Shakopee, Moundsview, Apple Valley, Champlin, Anoka, Coon Rapids, Farmington, Mpls. Storm, Orono, Mahtomedi: **Generally 3 or possibly "4 smaller" bantam teams with 2 traveling.** As with High Mid Tier, these clubs don't have multiple teams at any one level so their B1 competitiveness holds up well. Again features players at unique points in the team rosters which would generally be the bottom 4-8 kids on their B1 team and the top 1-9 B2 bantam players in their club.

Mid Low Tier

Mound, Spring Lake Park, Armstrong, Kennedy-Richfield, Hopkins, North Metro, Chisago, Northfield, Owatonna, Waconia, Hudson, Hutchinson, Simley, N. St. Paul, Highland: **Generally 2 or possibly "3 smaller" bantam teams total.** B1 Bantams may be the first squad they field in this group along with three total teams. The last 3-8 players on that A or B1 team along with the first 1-8 of the second team if applicable would be a starting point but a conversation with our staff at ESP may be in order. You may need to fill in kids using a neighboring club if your players drop off quickly skill wise with team two. If there is an "A" team and 3 teams the club may be a little stronger where "maybe" only the last player or two are eligible along with all 3 lines of the next team & a few from the 3rd team if there are four teams total.

Lower Tier

Johnson-Como, Redwing, River Falls, New Richmond, Baldwin, North Branch: The 4th through 17th best players.

Coaches from teams not listed should be able to fit themselves into the formula by comparing teams listed to their team by club size, win / loss records, & the outcomes of games with common opponents & or head to head. Another way to find a solid starting point, use a 30% calculation of your "exact level size" (total player numbers) to find your top players & then work back from there 15-20 kids to find the full range. A balanced mix within that # grouping will make you competitive.

Low Tier: 22-32 Use the 30% calculation of exact number of level bantams to find starting point. **Low Mid Tier:** 33-59 Bantams targets the 12th through 28th best players or 30% starting point. **Mid Tier:** 60-79 Bantams targets the 19th through 38th most skilled kids are the target. **High Mid Tier:** 80-109 total Bantams targets the 26th through 44th most skilled. **Top Tier:** 110-125 total Bantams target the 38th through 54th most skilled. **Elite Tier:** 125+ Bantams 50th through 75th players.